

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 QUITO 03024 052149Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 SP-02
SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PA-01 /048 W
-----030044 052208Z /61

O R 052133Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8152
INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 3024

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, EC
SUBJECT: ECUADOREAN ELECTIONS

REF: A) STATE 114311, B) STATE 041780, C) QUITO 3023,
D) QUITO 2847

1. CHARGE MET WITH PRESIDENTIAL AIDE TO PRESIDENT POVEDA, COMMANDER FELIPE BALLADARES, ON AFTERNOON OF MAY 4 TO DISCUSS ARRANGEMENTS FOR MEETING OF DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FRANCIS MCNEIL WITH PRESIDENT POVEDA IN SALINAS ON MAY 6. CHARGE TOOK ADVANTAGE OF MEETING TO ASK BALLADARES TO TELL PRESIDENT POVEDA THAT USG CONCERNS CHARGE HAD EXPRESSED TO SECRETARY GENERAL FOR ADMINISTRATION OF THE GOVERNMENT, ADMIRAL HUGO GARCES, WERE STILL STRONG. (REF D). DRAWING ON REF B, CHARGE STATED THAT USG HAS HOPED ECUADOR WOULD OPT FOR A FAIR AND IMPARTIAL PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION AND THAT USG CONTINUED WITH THIS HOPE. CHARGE SUGGESTED THAT EVENTS OF PAST COUPLE WEEKS COULD DESTROY THE ELECTION PROCESS. HE STRESSED THAT USG WAS TOTALLY IMPARTIAL WITH RESPECT TO ANY CANDIDATE AND THAT USG PREOCCUPATION WAS FOR THE SUCCESS OF A FREE, OPEN AND DEMOCRATIC ELECTION.

2. WITH RESPECT TO MEETING OF DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY
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MCNEIL, CHARGE EMPHASIZED THAT MEETING WAS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR MCNEIL TO MEET WITH THE PRESIDENT AND EXCHANGE VIEWS ON MATTERS OF INTEREST. EFFORT WAS MADE TO PRESENT MEETING IN A LOW KEY WAY AND TO AVOID PRESENTING IT AS SOMETHING PORTENTOUS. POVEDA IS AWARE OF THE DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR YCAZA, AND THE PRESIDENT EXPECTS THAT MR MCNEIL WILL DISCUSS THE

ELECTION PROCESS WITH HIM. CHARGE WILL NOT ATTEMPT TO TALK
WITH POVEDA PRIOR TO MEETING ON MAY 6, SINCE POVEDA IS
OUT OF QUITO.
CORR

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Message Attributes

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